

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 OES-02

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DRAFTED BY EA/ANP:LJMOSER:RLW

APPROVED BY EA:JOZURHELLEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SUVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

S E C R E T STATE 083038

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ANZUS, MNUC, PARM, PFOR, AS, NZ, US, OVIP (ROWLING)

SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND NUCLEAR FREE ZONE PROPOSAL

REF: WELLINGTON 885

SUVA FOR AMBASSADOR SELDEN, CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. NEW ZEALAND AMBASSADOR LLOYD WHITE CALLED, UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, ON DEP ASSISTANT SECRETARY OWEN ZURHELLEN ON APRIL 10 TO DISCUSS ROWLING VISIT AND SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR FREE ZONE (SPNFZ) PROPOSAL.

2. "THE WORD FROM WELLINGTON" SAID WHITE, IS THAT GNZ HAS DECIDED TO "SLOW DOWN FOR THE MOMENT" ALL ACTION ON THE SPNFZ. ISSUE HAD BEEN RAISED BY GNZ WITH AUSTRALIAN
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GOVERNMENT, ON BASIS OF TEXT IN REFTEL. IDEA HAD "NOT

PROGRESSED" WITH GOA; "THEY WERE NOT AT ALL CONVINCED OF THE WISDOM OF SUCH A PROPOSAL."

3. WHITE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH GNZ HAS NOT DECIDED TO ABANDON THE SPNFZ CONCEPT, IT WOULD BE "PUT ON ICE." ROWLING WOULD TAKE A SOUNDING OF HOW STRONGLY NZ LABOR PARTY FELT ON THIS ISSUE DURING THE PARTY CONFERENCE SCHEDULED TO OPEN ON

MAY 12. AS A CONSEQUENCE, GNZ WOULD NOT BE RAISING MATTER OR REALLY BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS IT EITHER AT ANZUS COUNCIL MEETING (APRIL 24-25) OR DURING ROWLING VISIT TO US (MAY 7). AFTER LABOR PARTY CONFERENCE, WHITE SAID, PM ROWLING MIGHT, REPEAT MIGHT, PURSUE IDEA OF SEEKING A UNGA RESOLUTION ON THE VALUE OF SUCH A NFZ; HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT GNZ MIGHT VERY WELL DECIDE NOT TO TAKE ANY FURTHER ACTION AT ALL.

4. ZURHELLEN STATED THAT US HAD NOT INTENDED TO RAISE THE ISSUE AT ANZUS. WE HAD BEEN CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT LACK OF ANY EARLY US RESPONSE TO NZ PROPOSAL MIGHT LEAD TO "A MISAPPREHENSION THAT WE ARE NOT CONCERNED" ABOUT THE POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF GNZ INITIATIVES IN THIS FIELD. IN THE UN, FOR EXAMPLE, SOME POSSIBLE GNZ APPROACHES COULD LEAD TO A SITUATION WHERE US AND NZ WOULD BE TAKING OPPOSED POSITIONS ON THE FLOOR OF THE UNGA. THIS IS A SITUATION WE WOULD WANT TO AVOID WITH AN ALLY. WHITE AGREED.

5. REFERRING TO DRAFT PROPOSAL IN REFTTEL, WHITE SAID HE HOPED USG WOULD NOT "GET TOO EXCITED" OVER "THAT PIECE OFFPAPER." HE IMPLIED IT WAS LITTLE MORE THAN A "THINK PIECE." HE HAD COME IN BECAUSE "WE FELT YOU MIGHT BELIEVE WE WOULD BE PRESSING THIS ISSUE; THAT IS NOT THE CASE." REMAINDER OF CALL CONCERNED ARRANGEMENTS FOR ROWLING VISIT. KISSINGER

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